

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

KENNETH R. PLUM
2073 COBBLESTONE LANE
RESTON, VIRGINIA 20191-4039

THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT
CHAIR, HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

December 2, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am concerned that Reston-based LightSquared, which seeks to launch a new nationwide mobile broadband network has been delayed because of potential interference with GPS devices. I ask that you join me in contacting the Federal Communications Commission to express support for LightSquared's efforts to find an engineering solution to the GPS interference issue in order that all Americans can enjoy the benefits of this new state-of-the-art network as soon as possible.

America's mobile-broadband infrastructure is insufficient to meet the fast-growing demand generated by the popularity of smartphones, tablet readers and other broadband devices. Within two years, such devices will experience "dead zones," dropped signals and slower speeds because current wireless providers lack the capacity to meet rising demand. It is essential that the FCC address this shortfall by enabling spectrum holders such as LightSquared to use their bandwidth to provide next generation mobile wireless broadband services. If America falls behind the world leaders in mobile broadband, all Americans will suffer economically.

LightSquared is the prime candidate to help solve this problem. The company has spent more than 10 years putting together a network that can add 40 MHz of nationwide spectrum for 4G-LTE purposes. That's currently more capacity dedicated to bringing Americans high-speed quality 4G-LTE service than any other provider of wireless broadband. LightSquared is using this spectrum to provide at least 260 million Americans with 4G-LTE service by 2015. Additionally, the satellite service integrated with the 4G-LTE service will enable retailers such as Sprint and Best Buy to offer Americans with devices that will have 100% coverage in the U.S. and 200 miles off each shore.

As a wholesale-only provider, LightSquared would greatly boost competition in wireless by enabling smaller competitors to offer world-class service to their customers. Already, they have developed many partnerships that will significantly boost broadband access across America.

While the GPS interference issue is serious, it is being addressed. The FCC has said it will not allow LightSquared to move forward until interference is fully tested and mitigated.

I find it disappointing that so many members of Congress are attacking LightSquared rather than applauding the company for its innovative, entrepreneurial solution to one of our country's most pressing problems. I hope you will support LightSquared and the FCC as they work to improve our nation's telecom infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Plum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" being more prominent than the last name "Plum".

Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum